

Four Native American Tribes Form Landmark Economic Partnership

Partnership Fosters Future Economic Growth and Strength Beyond Gaming

SAN MANUEL INDIAN NATION, Calif. – October 3, 2002 – The San Manuel Band of Mission Indians today announced it has joined with the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, and the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians of Southern California, to form Four Fires LLC. This new economic partnership is the first-ever joint business venture between tribal governments and was formed to function as an investment coalition between the tribes.

"This partnership allows the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians and our sister tribes to continue the pursuit of economic diversity and, in turn, an established economic future," said Deron Marquez, chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians.

The partnership arises from the success that the four Indian tribes have experienced as a result of bingo and casino gaming on their reservations, which is underscored by both the benefits and limitations they have faced in securing a stable and lasting economic base. According to tribal leaders, Four Fires offers a diverse opportunity for off-reservation economic development.

"The name of our tribal partnership, Four Fires, is symbolic of the fact that Native American nations are still recovering from the cold and dark of economic depression through the warming fires of economic development. These four brightly burning fires, covering a wide geographic distance, send a signal of hope and inspiration to the rest of Indian Country," said Rick Hill, president of The Hill Group and member of the Oneida Nation. "Just as we four tribes are beginning to grow individually into self-sufficiency, we will become even stronger by sharing our resources and our opportunities."

Four Fires is currently reviewing plans for construction, hospitality, tourism and other business development ventures, with each tribe as an equal investor.

About Four Fires

Four Fires LLC, founded in 2002, is an investment partnership of the Forest County Potawatomi Community of Wisconsin, the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians, and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians, both located in Southern California. The historic partnership arises from the success of bingo and casino gaming on reservations and the need to continually pursue a sound and established economic future. Four Fires will function as an investment coalition, with plans to develop construction, hospitality, tourism and other business development ventures, with each tribe as an equal investor. Evolving beyond a single tribe's capabilities, Four Fires will provide a landmark example of economic diversification to ensure stability and security for the future generations of Native Americans.

About the Forest County Potawatomi Community

The Forest County Potawatomi Community resides in three communities within a 20 mile radius in south Forest County located in Northern Wisconsin. Total enrollment of the Potawatomi Nation is 1,186 members with an estimated 326 members residing on or near the reservation. The tribe is the number one employer in Forest County and a leading employer in the Menominee Valley in downtown Milwaukee. Gaming operations in Milwaukee, and Carter, Wis. are positioned for future growth and the tribe has developed additional enterprises including the Indian Springs Lodge, a 99-room hotel and convention center, and a convenience store to compliment the Northern Lights Casino located on a major highway artery to Northern Wisconsin.

About the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin

The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin is a sovereign nation representing approximately 15,000 enrolled members. With a long-range vision spanning seven generations, the Oneida Nation has made a concerted effort to invest in economic ventures that continue to lead them towards economic self-sufficiency. Among the most successful economic ventures for the Oneida are the newly expanded 400-room Radisson Hotel and Conference Center, chain of Mobil convenience stores and gas stations, a gaming operation located immediately across from Austin Straubel International Airport in Green Bay, Wis. and a recent joint venture with the NFL Green Bay Packers team and historic Lambeau Field.

About the Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Indians

The Viejas Band of Kumeyaay trace their history back 10,000 years. Their reservation is located in the rural community of Alpine, 30 miles from the City of San Diego. A federally recognized tribe, the Viejas Band governs in accord with the band's customs and traditions. The tribe owns and operates two recreational vehicle parks, a campground and the 10-year old Viejas Casino. In addition, the Viejas Band was one of the first American Indian bank owners, buying majority shares of Borrego Springs Bank N.A., and also owns the 25-acre, \$55 million-Viejas Outlet Center, boasting six restaurants and 57 upscale, retail outlet stores. Viejas Enterprises employs over 2,500, purchases more than \$40 million locally in goods and services, and contributes millions of dollars annually to more than 450 charities and local neighboring community, school and civic programs.

About the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians

Descendents of the Serrano Indians, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians inhabited a territory spanning the San Bernardino Mountains, valley and adjoining desert lands for centuries. Today, the tribe is located on the San Manuel Reservation near Highland, Calif. Like other tribal lands in the United States, the San Manuel Reservation is a sovereign nation with its own system of government and tribal laws. The tribe operates the San Manuel Indian Bingo and Casino and the San Manuel Bottled Water Group, in addition to managing a variety of economic ventures. A partner in the community, the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians actively contributes to a variety of projects in neighboring areas. Nearby cities and towns receive support from the tribe for cultural, social, and economic projects to benefit the common good of the communities in which the tribe's members live and work.

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